

## Natural Resource Issues from the State Technical Working Group Survey

The following issue statements were compiled from a survey of the divisions and special programs within the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Department of Agriculture, and the Division of Minerals. The survey was conducted as part of the Natural Resources Plan issue scoping process.

The issue statements appear in order of relative importance. Relative importance was gauged by asking each agency to rate the importance of each issue in terms of the mission of the division or department. Ratings were zero (0) if not related at all; one (1) if indirectly related to the agency's objectives; two (2) if directly related to agency objectives but of minor importance; and three (3) if directly related to agency objectives and of major importance. Each agency's rating was summed to score and rank the issues.

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Issue Statement</b>	<b>Score</b>
1	support for development of statewide inventory of natural resources, status and trends	30
2	rapid regional growth and development in southern Nevada - resource impacts	29
3	rapid regional growth and development in western Nevada - resource impacts	29
4	improved coordination between state, federal and local governments	29
5	conflicts over the use of special designations for lands with unique resource values	27
6	need for rehabilitation of unstable major river and other stream channels	27
7	need for more department involvement in federal land use and resource mgt. plans	26.5
8	need for greater coordination between divisions in program planning	26.5
9	ecological impacts of growth on Eastern Sierra Front landscape and watersheds	26
10	conflicting management approaches concerning the Endangered Species Act	26
11	historic loss of wetlands, riparian lands and other aquatic habitats	25
12	insufficient rehabilitation of areas disturbed by fire, weeds	24.5
13	need to improve coordinated exchange of data between agencies	24.5
14	declining biodiversity in aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems	24
15	ecological impact of growth on Spring Mountains landscape and watersheds	24
16	maintaining minimum instream flow, water levels for environmental, wildlife purposes	24
17	long term deterioration of Walker Lake aquatic ecosystem and recreation resources	23
18	negative impacts from hydro-modification of channels and floodplains	23
19	inadequate response to the expansion of cheat grass through cycles of re-burning	22
20	spread of noxious and invasive weeds	22
21	conflicts over "multiple use" vs. "limited use" of public land	22
22	local government technical assistance needs for natural resource planning	22
23	inventory of noxious and invasive weeds and ecological conditions	22
24	inadequate coordination between state agencies to use GIS technology with resources data for decision analysis	22
25	long term environmental, water resource consequences of mine dewatering, closure	22
26	ecological impact of populations of stray and wild horse and burros	21.5
27	increasing wildland fire frequency, size and intensity	21
28	impact of grazing on carrying capacity of riparian, sagebrush/grass and other communities.	21

29	loss to development of open space containing important resource values	21
30	enhancing conservation awareness and natural resource education	21
31	habitat conservation plans for sensitive species and high priority conservation sites	20.5
32	Truckee and Carson river - implementation of provisions of the Truckee River Negotiated Settlement and Newlands Project Surface Water Rights Purchase legislation.	20.5
33	environmental impacts of increasing development in floodplain of rivers and tributaries	20
34	need for greater use of Best Management Practices in existing and new land uses	20
35	unhealthy forests, woodlands and rangelands from excessive plant densities	19
36	wildlife habitat loss and fragmentation to fire, weeds, development & other factors	19
37	need to increase public involvement in public-private land exchanges	19
38	enhancements for the seedbank and nursery program	19
39	inconsistent wildlife and other resource objectives at jurisdictional boundary	19
40	public process to develop a consensus proposal for BLM Wilderness Study Areas	19
41	negative effects of greater recreation use on resources, including developed parks	18
42	loss of water quality benefits due to loss of wetlands and riparian zones	18
43	conflicts over federal reserved water rights and state authority for water allocation	18
44	defining the role of the state and department in watershed planning	18
45	conflicts between construction of diversion dams and passage of fish and boaters	18
46	negative operational, economic impact of water transfers on irrigation districts	18
47	need to develop incentives for, enhance promotion of, remove institutional obstacles to and track water conservation actions	17.5
48	uncertainties concerning prescribed or controlled burning and fire ecology	17
49	introduced or invasive species out-competing native biota, both terrestrial and aquatic communities	17
50	need for greater resource conservation emphasis in local land use planning	17
51	need for greater understanding of water quantity and quality relationships	17
52	need for watershed assessment method to enhance watershed management efforts	17
53	increased understanding of the interconnections between underground and surface water bodies	17
54	potential for increased number of interbasin transfers in water supply limited watersheds - environmental impacts	16.5
55	perceived expansion of federal ownership of private lands	16
56	rangeland utilization data for setting wild horse AMLs and actual use levels for livestock	16
57	effects of BLM grazing standards and guidelines on other land uses allowed on federal public lands	16
58	declining distribution of Wyoming big sage plant community	15
59	loss of prime agricultural land containing important resource values	15
60	water contamination from historic/abandoned mines	15
61	air quality impacts of increasing use of controlled and prescribed burning	15
62	impact on river channel stability of diversion dams and flood protection structure	15
63	conflicts over stock water rights between BLM, private parties and the state	15
64	negative environmental effects of increasing off-highway vehicle use and roads	14
65	increasing nonpoint source pollution from urban and agricultural sources	14
66	using special designations for protection of unique water bodies	14
67	delineation of boundaries of wild horse herd management areas and herd areas	14

68	loss of habitat and agric. lands during and following mining, active & abandoned	14
69	inadequate understanding of rising greenhouse gas levels and climate change on vegetation and water resources in the Great Basin and Mojave Desert	14
70	increasing ground water pollution from septic systems in suburban areas and uncertainty concerning contribution of pollutants from injections wells	14
71	Wild and Scenic River Act proposal by the Forest Service for Carson and Walker rivers	14
72	recreation access, conflicts at public/private land interface	13
73	uncertainties concerning stewardship of contaminated DOD and DOE land	13
74	mapping, cataloguing and monitoring of aquatic plant communities, including springs	13
75	need for increased emphasis on natural community-level mgt. (vs. species level)	13
76	conflicting objectives regarding effluent reuse and maintaining instream flow	13
77	state drought plan update and recommendations for vulnerable biota	13
78	negative ecological effects of expanding pinyon-juniper woodlands	12.5
79	consequences of declining Sage grouse abundance and distribution	12
80	more difficulties providing wildfire safety at interface of developments and wildlands	12
81	increasing levels of regional haze from local and long range transport of pollutants	12
82	long range transport of pollutants and regional air quality problems	12
83	need to complete and enhance state plant community classification system	12
84	enforcement of NDF plant protection and permit programs	12
85	expansion of weeds and economic impacts to agricultural industry	11
86	need data on abundance, distribution of small mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds	11
87	increased recreation use conflicts on and adjacent to navigable waterways	11
88	water quality deterioration as a result of increasing use of gas powered water craft	11
89	changing estate and property tax rules that are disincentives to keep prime ag. land	11
90	increasing competition between different recreation groups for same recreation sites	10
91	increasing use at parks with water resources	10
92	diminishing availability of open space for recreation in and around urban areas	10
93	intensify native fisheries management	10
94	reduced recreation opportunities where water supplies are depleted	10
95	air quality impacts of expanding industrial development	9
96	local and state management for redevelopment of historically contaminated land	9
97	evaluate fish stocking program	9
98	growing demand for developed outdoor recreation facilities and trails	8
99	increasing vehicle miles and emissions due to urban sprawl development patterns	8
100	preparation of updated statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plan	8
101	preparation of state trails plan	8
102	urban forestry technical assistance needs	8
103	statewide survey of recreation use levels, needs, preferences	8
104	air pollution levels exceed national air quality standards in urban airsheds	8
105	enhancement of sport fishing at major fisheries	8
106	growing need for education/interpretive programs at state parks	7
107	need for more state/local planning to maintain good air quality in developing areas	7
108	funding sources for new facilities and redevelopment at state parks	6

109	providing for access of special user groups at state parks and others	6
110	growing demand for new and improved trails	5